

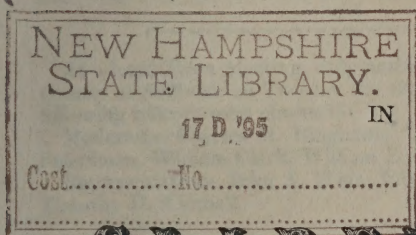
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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Annual Town Meeting,



CLAREMONT,

HOLDEN

MARCH 13 AND 14, 1860.

NORTHERN ADVOCATE PRINT, No. 4, MAIN ST.,
Claremont, N. H.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING,

IN CLAREMONT.

At a legal Town Meeting, duly notified and held at Claremont, in the County of Sullivan, on Tuesday the 13th day of March, A. D. 1860, the following officers were chosen:—

Moderator, Charles M. Bingham; Town Clerk, Thomas R. Gowdy; Selectmen, William Clark, William E. Tutherly, Horace Dean.

Representatives, John A. Winn, Edward D. Baker, Solon C. Grannis, Timothy D. Kimball.

VOTE FOR STATE AND COUNTY OFFICERS.

<i>For Governor.</i>		<i>For Senator.</i>	
Ichabod Goodwin	584	Jesse Slader	574
Asa P. Cate	241	S. F. Redfield	249
<i>Rail-Road Commissioner.</i>		<i>For Treasurer.</i>	
Jeremiah Tilton,	582	Albro Blodgett,	592
Frederick Vose,	241	Paul J. Wheeler,	231
<i>Councillor.</i>		<i>Register.</i>	
Robert Elwell,	582	Alexander V. Hitchcock,	582
Frederick Boyden,	241	H. W. Parker,	231
<i>County Commissioner.</i>			
William McCrae	582.	A. S. Bartholomew.	150
		Ira M. Clark	87.
<i>Superintending School Committee.</i>		<i>Fence Viewers.</i>	
Charles C. Church.		Leonard P. Fisher,	
		William Jones,	
		Freeman S. Chellis.	
<i>Collector of Taxes.</i>		<i>Hog Reeves.</i>	
James W. Bradley.		E. G. Judkins,	
<i>Town Treasurer.</i>		E. J. Tenney,	
Charles M. Bingham.		W. H. Farwell,	
<i>Sealer of Weights and Measures.</i>		George Ticknor,	
Jonathan Miner.		George B. Perry,	
<i>Constables.</i>		George G. Clark.	
Alfred Burrill,		<i>Pound Keeper.</i>	
George W. Blodgett,		Frederick A. Henry.	
Samuel C. Bailey,		<i>Surveyors of Wood.</i>	
George W. Redfield,		Sumner Putnam.	
Thomas Kirk.		Wm. F. Jones,	

George W. Blodgett,
N. A. Meader,
Daniel Burbee,
J. W. Osgood,
Charles N. Goss,
J. P. Brewer,
L. P. Fisher,
O. D. Blood.

Sealer of Leather.

Silas E. Noyes.

Auditors.

James Goodwin,
E. L. Goddard,
Samuel C. Bailey.

[Appointments by the Selectmen]

Highway Surveyors.

Dist. No. 1, George N. Farwell,
No. 2, Chester Benton,
3, James Goodwin,
4, Frederick A. Henry,
5, Andrew J. Pike,
6, Frederick Jones,
7, Solomon Putnam,
8, Samuel C. Abbott,
9, Edward W. Buck,
10, Josiah Wilson.

11, Ebenezer Laws,
12, Russell Jarvis,
13, Jno. Densmore,
14, Sylvester P. Reed,
15, Lucien Jackson,
16, Enoch Johnson,
17, Abiel White,
18, James F. Bartlett,
19, Ira Colby,
20, Stephen M. Ayers,
21, Homer E. Grannis,
22, Daniel Kenyon,
23, Austin C. Dodge,
24, Edward W. Moore,
25, Franklin Norton,
26, Thomas B. Fletcher,
27, John W. Chaffin,
28, Arnold Farr,
29, John Higbee.

Chief Engineer.

George W. Blodgett.

Assistant Engineers.

D. A. Clay,
Benjamin P. Gilman,

Overseer of the Poor.

William Clark

VOTED, To pay the Tax Collector one hundred dollars for collecting the Taxes the present year.

VOTED, To raise the sum required by law for the support of schools the present year.

VOTED, To raise the sum of two thousand dollars to be paid in labor for the support of roads and bridges during the present year.

VOTED, That the school money be divided as follows: fifty dollars to each district, and the remainder by the scholar.

VOTED, To raise an amount of money equal to the interest of the Literary Fund, for the support of schools the present year.

VOTED, To raise the sum of two thousand dollars for the legal expenditures of the town the present year.

VOTED, To pay Engine men three dollars and fifty cents in addition to what they are entitled by law.

VOTED, To accept the Reports of the Superintending School Committees, Chief Engineer, and Liquor Agent.

VOTED, To prohibit Cattle and Horses from running at large in any public highway in Claremont, under penalty of three dollars for each offence.

VOTED, That a fine of one dollar be imposed upon each and every person, for each and every offence, for coasting or sliding in any highway in Claremont.

VOTED, To instruct the Selectmen to pay to the several school districts in said Town, the percentage which may arise and be collected on all money raised by said districts, for building school houses and other purposes.

TOWN OF CLAREMONT,

THE

FINANCIAL REPORT,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 2, 1860.

The Auditors of the Town beg leave respectfully to submit the following REPORT:

The valuation as assessed April 1, 1859, of Real Estate, including Mills and Machinery, is \$1,281,650
 Valuation of Personal Estate, is 520,500
 860 Polls at \$240 each, 206,400

Total Valuation, \$2,008,550

The rate of taxation the present year is 49 cents on \$100 00 in money, and 10 cents in labor on highways.

THE AMOUNT OF TAXES ASSESSED AS FOLLOWS, VIZ:—

For Schools, as required by law,	\$3414 00
“ Legal Expenses of Town by vote,	2500 00
“ County Tax,	1843 99
“ State Tax,	1194 90
“ Interest on School Lands sold,	122 24
“ Interest on Literary Fund,	315 28
Add about 4 4-5 per cent.	453 37
	\$9843 78
For School House Tax in District No. 17,	1,258 92
“ School House Tax in District No. 7,	104 86
“ Highway Tax paid in labor,	2,067 00

R E C E I P T S .

AMOUNT PAID INTO THE TREASURY, YEAR ENDING MARCH 2, 1860:

Balance in Treasury, March 5, 1859,	\$1,036 21
From Moses R. Emerson, for School Land deed,	30 50
“ John Sears, Showman's License,	30 00
“ State, for Literary Fund,	298 20
“ Nixon & Co., Circus License,	30 00
“ County, on Pauper account,	495 64
“ School Land Rents,	61 57
“ Charles Ball for School Land Deed,	83 34
“ P. C. Freeman, Police Justice,	32 29
“ W. P. Austin, Associate Justice,	6 47
“ T. R. Gowdy, Liquor Agent,	149 11
“ A. Burrill, for use of Town House,	28 00
“ R. Petty, balance on Tax Bill 1858,	40 29
“ J. W. Bradley, Collector of Taxes,	8168 67
“ J. W. Bradley, not included in Tax Bill,	14 33
	\$10,504 62

D I S B U R S E M E N T S .

OR AMOUNT PAID OUT OF TREASURY:—

For repairs of Highways and Bridges,	\$819 74
“ Schooling,	4116 83

For Ringing Bells and Sexton's Services,	136 14
" Support of Poor,	873 73
" Abatement of Taxes assessed in 1858,	10 24
" Abatement of Taxes assessed in 1859,	66 56
" Building School House in District No. 17,	1200 00
" Repairing School House in District No. 7,	100 00
	<hr/> \$7,323 24

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

H. W. Ballard, damages by defective highway,	\$ 10 00
A. Burrill, labor and repairing fence, burying ground,	11 75
J. Weber, for printing Town Warrants and Reports,	24 75
G. W. Merrifield for Stationary,	3 90
O. F. R. Waite, for printing Town Warrant, &c.,	9 00
Town Clerk of Enfield for copy of Records,	1 00
W. P. Austin for Plan of the Common,	10 00
G. W. Merrifield for Bill tax books, &c.,	3 69
E. J. Glidden, damages by defective highway in 1857,	16 00
S. E. George, sexton services, A. White,	1 25
L. Stevens, for repairs on Town House,	1 00
N. Wilson for setting trees at burying ground,	8 67
W. P. Austin Chesnut Lumber for Cemetery and Surveying,	10 18
P. C. Freeman, services as Police Justice,	100 00
W. P. Austin, services as Associate Justice,	12 00
James Barker for repairing fence, burying ground,	1 00
P. C. Freeman, for rent of Selectmen's Room,	25 00
W. Clark for expense to Grafton, &c.,	8 05
J. Livingston for Bell rope,	1 13
Paid F. Whitcomb, R. Petty, F. C. Chellis, and H. Dean for Watering Troughs \$3.00 each,	12 00
Dudley, for Sawing Wood,	50
B. P. Gilman, Door for Tomb,	3 00
P. C. Freeman, Police Court Blanks,	5 45
Freeman & McClure, legal advice,	7 00
Ira Colby, for half Cord Wood,	2 00
J. S. Walker, for printing Warrant, Blanks, &c.,	8 50
T. R. Gowdy, cash paid for Physician's returns,	3 30
J. W. Bradley, remitting State Tax,	1 50
A. Burrill, for Wood and Sawing, at Town Hall,	19 87
	<hr/> \$321 49

TOWN OFFICERS.

L. E. Jackson, services as Superintending School Com- mittee in District No. 2,	\$5 00
J. Minor, services as Superintending School Committee in District No. 15,	3 00
G. G. Ide, services as Superintending School Committee in District No. 17,	10 00
Ira Colby, Jr., services as Superintending School Com- mittee,	60 00
Ira Colby, Jr., services as Superintending School Com- mittee in Districts No. 2, & 15,	15 00
E. L. Goddard, services as Auditor in 1857, 8 & 9,	10 00
E. L. Goddard, services as Chief Engineer, 1857 & 8, &c.	35 00
J. Goodwin, services as Selectman in 1859,	9 50
Wm. Clark, services as Selectman,	110 25
Ira Colby, services as Selectman,	94 50

F. A. Henry, services as Selectman,	98 25
Wm. Clark, services as Overseer of the Poor,	25 00
Wm. Clark, drawing orders &c.,	20 00
T. R. Gowdy, services as Town Clerk,	44 21
James W. Bradley, services as Collector of Taxes,	75 00
C. M. Bingham, services as Treasurer and Moderator,	30 00
	<hr/> \$644 71

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Engine men for services, 1858,	\$325 70
J. Minor, for Hose Carriage for Hydrant,	25 00
W. P. Austin, for repairs of Engines, Hose, &c.,	26 77
E. J. Bowen, Leather for Engine No. 1,	1 09
W. P. Austin, for printing By-Laws for Engine Co., No. 3 & 4, and repairs,	11 70
W. P. Austin, Cash paid C. H. Eastman for 4 Gallons Straits Oil,	5 00
G. W. Emerson, for twine for serving Hose,	7 49
H. Rugg, for labor, &c., on Engine No. 3,	9 39
W. P. Austin for Oil, Tallow, &c., for Engines,	5 26
	<hr/> \$417 40

Whole amount paid out of Treasury, \$8,706 84
 Leaving balance in Treasury of 1797,78

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Amount of Money raised by Law,	\$3,414 00
Interest on Literary Fund,	315 28
Rent of School Lands, and int't on School Land Fund,	183 81
	<hr/> \$3,913 09
Deduct for Teachers' Institute,	68 28
	<hr/> \$3,844 81

Which is divided \$50 00 to each district, and the remainder by the Scholar—which gives about \$2 41 1/4 to each Scholar:—

District.	No. Scholars.	Am't.	District.	No. Scholars.	Am't.
1	264	686 87	11	39	144 08
2	56	185 10	12	25	110 22
3	19	95 84	13	23	105 49
4	72	223 70	14	27	115 14
5	39	144 08	15	115	327 43
6	26	112 72	16	19	95 84
7	39	144 08	17	277	718 23
8	28	117 55	18	50	170 62
9	49	168 20	19	19	95 84
10	14	83 78			

TOWN FARM.

COST OF SUPPORTING THE POOR:—

Am't of property at Town Farm, March 1859,	1,539 26
Am't due from County, for support of Poor, 1859,	37 01
Paid T. B. Fletcher's Salary,	250 00
" T. B. Fletcher, for sundry purchases,	362 45
" Selectmen to aid poor not on the farm,	261 28
Interest on Cost of Farm,	228 00
Wm. Clark, Overseer of the Poor,	25 00
	<hr/> \$2,703 00

CR. AS FOLLOWS:

Am't received for County Paupers,	495 64
" due from County,	64 20
" Personal Property at Farm, March 1860,	1,694 87
" Due from Barker & Clough,	9 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,263 71

\$439 29

LIQUOR AGENT'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1860.

Am't of Liquor on hand, March 1, 1860,	\$302 54
" of Money paid into Treasury,	149 11
	<hr/>
	\$451 65

Amount of Liquor on hand March 1, 1859, 415 89

Net gain to the Town, \$35 76

Am't received for sale of Liquors by Agent, from March 1, 1859,
to March 1, 1860, \$1581 14

Am't received for sale of Casks, 18 58

\$1,599 72

Am't paid for Liquors,	\$1,200 61
" paid for Agents Salary,	250 00
" paid into Town Treasury,	149 11
	<hr/>
	\$1,599 72

ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Balance in hands of Treasurer, March 5, 1860,	\$1,797 78
Due from County, on Pauper account,	64 20
Due from Barker & Clough,	9 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,870 98

LIABILITIES.

The Town having appropriated the Literary Fund, now amounting to \$5,571 69, and the proceeds of the School Lands, amounting to \$2,120 71, is justly liable for the annual interest thereon, for purposes of Schooling.

Aside from the above, the Town is free from debt, and has a surplus in the Treasurer's hands of \$1,797 78, and amount due from other sources \$73 20. The Auditors beg leave to say, that in their opinion, the affairs of the Town have been economically and faithfully managed; the Taxes have all been paid over by the Collector. The cost of supporting the poor has been less than for many years; the report of the Liquor Agent shows a falling off in sales and profits; the operations of the Town Farm show an actual profit over and above its expenses of about \$100 00, which speaks well for the management of the Agent at the Farm.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. L. GODDARD, }
JAMES GOODWIN. } AUDITORS.

SCHOOL REPORTS.

Report of the Superintending School Committee of Claremont for the year ending March, 1860:

GENTLEMEN: The Superintendent, in accordance with the law, submits the following report of the schools of the town—excepting those of District No. 17, which, being under the "Somersworth Act," has its own report. Districts No. 2 and 15, were last year under the same act, but have since dispensed with it.

A larger amount of money has been expended for the support of Schools this year, than within the same space of time at any former period.

A large majority of our school houses are comfortable and convenient; two-thirds of them have been re-built or thoroughly refitted since 1850.

There are, however, one or two left, which were condemned as unfit for use as far back as we have been able to discover any record, and are still without the slightest repair. We have had many excellent teachers, and very few indeed that would fall below mediocrity. On the whole, there is good reason to feel assured that the educational interests of the town are in a prosperous condition, and that during the past year, whatever particular exceptions there may have been to success, there has been encouraging progress, and in some cases decided advancement. With these favorable indications, we might confidently expect the speedy and complete triumph of our free schools in the full accomplishment of their design, were it not for the pernicious influence of a few inveterate evils.

Among these may be mentioned the want of a proper and sufficient classification, the apathy indifference and neglect of their real friends in visiting the schools, encouraging and sustaining the teachers, and in resisting, by an active and overwhelming public sentiment, that restless, carping and complaining spirit which sometimes gets possession even of good men, and leads them, on the slightest grounds, without any attempt to ascertain the truth, without a single visit to the school-room, where they have not spent an hour for the last ten and perhaps not for the last thirty years, recklessly to lend their influence to prostrate the success of the school and the reputation of the teacher.

But worse still, at least among us at the present time, is the irregularity of attendance. It is impossible to estimate the injurious consequences of this destructive practice, not only upon the scholar himself, but upon the class, the school and the teacher; the loss of interest, the discouragement, disorder and perplexity thus arising.

Last year the average attendance throughout the town of those who went to school more than two weeks, was a slight fraction above fifty per cent. This year it will be a little better, and it is to be hoped will at least come up to what it was throughout the State last year, which was sixty-four per cent. Parents are the ones to blame in this business, and they must apply the remedy if they would enable teachers to accomplish a complete and thorough drill of what has been aptly termed "the great army of reserve," from which all professions, trades and occupations are continually drawing to make good the gaps in their ranks occasioned by death.

Dis. No. 1. An attempt has been made during the past year to effect a more thorough grading of this school. It has been a difficult problem, and incapable of any thing more than a partial solution in so short a time. But with the hearty aid and co-operation of the Prudential Committee, something has been accomplished. There have been lines of division drawn between the different departments, and a succession of steps marked by which scholars may ascend from the lowest to the highest. The classes have been confined to so much of their books as could be well and thoroughly learned from one examination to another, and have been advanced

from term to term over new ground, with a view to a proper completion of the whole within the accustomed limits of school days. The good effects of this system have already been very apparent, and if carried forward with energy, there can be no doubt it will soon place this school upon an excellent footing in this respect. There now rests in the hands of the Prudential Committee the entire programme as it has been—so that whoever may have charge of these matters for the year to come, may avail themselves of the information therein contained.

The Grammar Department throughout the year has been under the instruction of C. C. Church. Mr. Church has labored with great fidelity for the interests of his pupils, and with corresponding success. We have never anywhere seen greater advancement or more thorough and accurate scholarship, all things considered, than have been the result of Mr Church's efforts in this district. It has been a model school, and has abundantly proved the wisdom of employing a thorough and practical man in this department both summer and winter.

Intermediate Department—Miss E. A. Lewis, Teacher. Miss Lewis is a teacher of experience and industry. Her management has been judicious and efficient, and the school has continued to prosper under her instruction. There has been decided improvement in Reading, Geography and Arithmetic, and a very friendly feeling has seemed to prevail between teacher and scholars.

Primary Department—Miss D. J. Prentice, Teacher for the first term, Miss J. A. Thorndike for the second and third. This school has generally done very well. Miss Thorndike, without maintaining the strictest order has been surprisingly successful in teaching. The examinations of the fall and winter terms were excellent. It is evident that the scholars of this school have been taught to think, and to keep their minds upon the lesson. The teacher has really struck a well aimed and effective blow upon that bane of all good scholarship, absent-mindedness.

Dis. No. 2. The summer school was taught by Miss C. S. Sargent.—During Miss Sargent's stay in the district there was a gradual and sure progress in the order and general good appearance of the school. Great attention was paid to writing—a branch which, notwithstanding its importance, has been generally in late years, very much neglected in our common schools.

The winter term was taught by O. B. Way. Mr. Way's success was of a very marked and pleasing character. He is especially deserving of praise for the improvement he made in the classification of the school. Several of his classes labored with more than ordinary industry. The most prominent among these were the class in Geography and the second class in Arithmetic. We were glad to find that the voice as well as the mind had been cultivated, and that the answers were loud and distinct.

Dis. No. 3. Miss M. E. Higbee was the teacher during the summer, and Marcellus Mathewson during the winter term. This school, both summer and winter, has been marked neither by great excellences nor defects, but has passed along very quietly. The teachers secured to themselves the good will of their scholars, and were well qualified to instruct. Still we think with a little more energy on the part of scholars as well as teachers, more positive results would have been attained.

Dis. No. 4. The school during the summer was under the instruction of Miss J. T. Robinson. This teacher was well prepared both by education and experience to give satisfaction to her employers. The advancement was commendable, and the school appeared well at the close.

The winter school was taught by L. P. Boyd, of Dart. College. This was Mr. Boyd's second season in the district. From the appearance when first visited, we expected a very profitable term, but one or two unfortunate circumstances prevented, to a considerable degree, the good results which otherwise would have been realized from this teacher's labors. This can never become a first class school until the scholars are more regular in their attendance.

Dis. No. 5. The summer school of fourteen weeks was taught by Miss

M. L. Dunklee. Whole number of scholars in attendance 23—average attendance 16.

The winter term was commenced by Calvin Laws. Two months of the latter part of the school was under the charge of L. A. Grannis. Whole number of scholars 28—average 18.

Dis. No. 6. Miss Mary Wightman Teacher for the summer. Miss Wightman is among our most ambitious and energetic teachers. She conducted this school with a tact and labored with an industry which were highly commended by the district. The closing exercises showed great improvement on the part of the pupils.

The winter term was under the instruction of Miss A. M. Deane. Miss Deane had been so favorably known as a teacher in other portions of the town, that we were prepared to expect success here. Unfortunately in the course of the term dissatisfaction arose, and complaints were made by a part of the district. With every facility for knowing the real condition of the school we have been unable to learn of any serious fault on the part of this teacher. There can be no reasonable doubt had the teacher been sustained by the whole district it would have been one of our most profitable schools. As it was, some of the scholars made very marked progress, the order was excellent, and all the recitations at the close good.

Dis. No. 7. The summer school was taught by Miss A. M. Deane. The discipline and general appearance of the school were of a very satisfactory character, and the advancement on the part of all commendable. The first class are particularly worthy of notice on account of the ready and prompt manner in which they passed the exercises of the examination.

The winter term was under the charge of W. H. Chaffin, and has fully maintained the stand taken in the summer. We have visited no school where a more friendly feeling seemed to prevail between teacher and scholars, and where there was more courtesy of deportment, especially on the part of the older pupils. The closing exercises were very pleasant and gratifying both to your Committee and the parents present, and exhibited thorough preparation in the studies pursued. This district have just refitted their old house, and rendered it a pleasant and inviting place for the scholars—and at the same time have not forgotten to surround it with an ample play-ground for out-door sport and exercise.

Dis. No. 8. Miss Alice Dean Teacher for the first term. This school during the summer was conducted to the entire satisfaction of the district as well as your Committee. The progress was good, and the order and general appearance indicated that the teacher had executed her duties with prudence and industry.

M. W. Allen of Royalton, Vt., Teacher for the winter. This school during the winter attained only a partial success; but there is good reason to believe it was not so much the fault of the teacher as of the district. The term was closed prematurely on account of sickness.

Dis. No. 9. The summer school was under the instruction of Miss Helen Dean. This was Miss Dean's second season in the district. She has acquitted herself in a very satisfactory manner, and by industry, energy and decision, has taken rank among those teachers who can be relied upon to produce good results. The exercises of the examination showed great advancement on the part of some, and good progress generally.

G. A. Miller, of Dart. College, teacher for the winter. Mr. Miller is an industrious and competent teacher, and has labored faithfully for the good of his pupils, but the great irregularity of attendance presented a very serious obstacle to the highest success. The school appeared in good order at the close, and those scholars who had been most constant exhibited commendable proficiency in their studies.

Dis. No. 10. Miss S. M. Reed Teacher for the summer, Miss H. A. Fletcher for the fall, and Miss Emerette Ayers for the winter. These schools have all been good; and at the same time Miss Fletcher deserves especial praise for the active and laborious manner in which she discharged her duties. The scholars of this school are well behaved and studious, and have made excellent progress throughout the year.

Dis. No. 11. Miss S. A. Clark Teacher for the first term. This school during the summer was in a very prosperous condition. There was order and activity in every arrangement and movement. The classes were prompt and accurate in their recitations, and the advancement in the various studies of a marked character. The reading especially was very good.

The school in the winter was in the charge of G. S. Severance of Washington. This teacher is a thorough scholar, but did not seem to appreciate the necessities of our schools as fully as could have been desired. The order was bad and the school an unprofitable one.

Dis. No. 12. Summer and fall terms, Miss H. M. Sawyer teacher. This is a small school, but has been fortunate during the present year in securing the services of competent teachers. At the end of the first term the school appeared in good order and passed well at examination. Before the end of the second it was broken off on account of sickness. Winter term, G. P. Rossiter Teacher. This was Mr. Rossiter's first term at teaching, and he has succeeded better than we expected. He has exhibited activity, energy and interest in his employment, and his scholars have made decided progress in their studies.

Dis. No. 13. Miss Jennie Jones taught this school during the summer. It was a successful term and a profitable one to the district.

For the winter it was in the charge of Harvey Demming of Cornish.—This was Mr. Demming's first term. We see no reason why, with a larger experience, he may not be among our most successful teachers. This district are about erecting a new school house.

Dis. No. 14. Miss H. M. Chase teacher for the summer. This school has appeared quiet and orderly when visited and has kept the school house in a very neat and tidy condition. The appearance in the studies has been to fair advantage with perhaps a little lack of enthusiasm.

The winter term was commenced by F. D. Nevens of Cornish. Mr. Nevens was a thorough scholar and good teacher. He gave entire satisfaction while he remained. About the middle of the term he was attacked by a severe illness and obliged to quit the school. For the last six weeks it has been under the instruction of John Dean. The interest has been fully sustained, and the latter part made as profitable to the district as the former, which is unusual, or at least very uncertain with a school interrupted as this has been.

Dis. No. 15. Grammar Department—This department during the two first terms was in the charge of Miss L. L. Hall of Cornish. Miss Hall's management of this school is every way to be commended. The advancement and success attained during the first term were entirely satisfactory so far as we are aware, to all concerned. Unfortunately the second term was broken off at the end of a few weeks by reason of the severe illness of the teacher.

The winter term was taught by Galen Allen of Dart. Coll. The school continued steadily to prosper under Mr. Allen's tuition. Good order and quiet always seemed to prevail. The advancement was very good in all branches, while in some it was very marked. This school has made sure and uninterrupted progress throughout the year.

Primary Department:—In this department the year commenced with the services of Miss M. L. Clement, who was unwearied in her efforts, but was not so successful in preserving order as could have been desired. At the beginning of the second term Miss A. M. Deane took charge of the school. Miss Deane is an excellent disciplinarian. The most perfect order soon prevailed, and at the same time the cheerful demeanor of the pupils showed that it had been effected without harshness. The progress in study was good. The winter term was taught by Miss L. L. Hall—the teacher in the upper department during the summer. Miss Hall's scholars seemed much attached to her and made very satisfactory progress in the branches taught, but there is reason to fear that they contracted some habits of study which will prove an annoyance to future teachers. Miss Hall does better service in the upper than in the lower department of a school like this.

Dist. No. 16. There was no school in this district during the summer.

The winter school was under the instruction of Miss D. G. Sargent. From the well known ability of this teacher there was every reason to expect a very profitable term, and such it was. The quiet good order, the respectful bearing, and the manifest and decided improvement of the pupils in their studies, are worthy of all praise. The best recitations were those of the first classes in Arithmetic, Grammar and Geography. Altogether, this school has proved the wisdom of employing known and experienced teachers when they can be obtained. The district have manifested a becoming enterprise in keeping their pleasant schoolroom in good and neat repair.

Dist. No. 18. Miss Martha Davidson Teacher for the first term. This teacher labored hard and anxiously for the welfare of the school, and we are glad to say was very successful both in procuring order & improvement. There was a general desire to employ her again, but being unable to do so, Miss Marietta Colby was engaged for the fall term. It is but justice to this teacher to say that there are few who excel her in the orderly and systematic working of a school, and this in a manner pleasing to scholars as well as spectators. The exercises of the examination were prompt and accurate, without waiting or dragging, and showed an entire mastery of the ground gone over.

The winter school was under the instruction of Anson M. Sperry. Mr. Sperry has been fortunate in avoiding the troubles which in former winters afflicted this school, and has secured the friendship and respect of his pupils. The examination was good. If there was any fault it was in having gone over too much ground without sufficient review. Great attention has been paid to spelling.

Dis. No. 19. This is a small and rather backward school, and is very badly supplied with books. There seems to be a lack of energy among the scholars. In the summer it was in the charge of Miss H. J. Carlton. The winter term was taught by Miss N. J. Grannis, a teacher of superior qualifications by education, and a happy faculty of getting the good will of her scholars. The school appeared well at the close.

All which is respectfully submitted,

IRA COLBY, Jr. Superintendent of Schools.

R E P O R T

Of the Superintending School Committee of District No. 17, in Claremont, for the year ending March, 1860:

The Superintending Committee of the Schools in District No. 17, would respectfully report, that, in the performance of his duties during the past year, he has made frequent visits to the schools entrusted to his care; and as it was regarded very important by him that the schools should be properly classified, for the purpose of giving to each scholar a greater proportion of the teacher's time and attention, at the commencement of each term he has given especial attention to the division of the schools, the classification of the scholars and the arrangement of their studies.

At the close of the several terms he has spent half a day in the examination of each department. He has thus had many excellent opportunities for witnessing their discipline, and of hearing the recitations of the pupils in the various departments under the several instructors, and consequently, has had the proper advantages and means for judging correctly of the proficiency of the scholars in the different studies which they have been pursuing.

These visits and examinations have generally been satisfactory, some of them highly so, and it is the opinion of your Committee that the district has been fortunate in securing so energetic, faithful and efficient a board of teachers, during the past year.

There have been in session in the district during the year, four schools, each three terms. A summer term of ten weeks commencing May 2d. The whole number of scholars attending two weeks or more, was one hundred and sixty one. The average attendance one hundred and thirty-four.

A fall term commencing Aug. 22d, and continuing ten weeks. Whole

number of scholars one hundred and forty-six, and the average attendance one hundred twenty-four.

The winter term commenced Nov. 29th, and continued twelve weeks. Number of scholars one hundred seventy-three, and the average attendance one hundred thirty eight.

The Primary Schools on Pearl street and on the Terrace, have each been under the same instruction, Miss Irene W. Felt of Winchester, teaching the former, and Miss Helen M. Richardson of Charlestown the latter, during the year.

The Primary School on the Bluff, so called, was taught during the summer and fall terms by Miss Mary E. Dimond of this town. The Grammar School during the same terms was under the instruction of Miss E. L. Colby of Meriden; during the winter, it was under the charge of Mr. Geo. W. Bingham of this town.

At the examinations of the Primary schools at the close of the fall term, the Committee became satisfied that there must be some provision made for the more advanced pupils connected with this department; that there must either be studies introduced not at all suitable for such schools, or that the first classes in this department and those least advanced of the Grammar School, should be united and form an Intermediate department.

The attention of the district was called to this fact, and it was voted to procure suitable furniture, and to fit up the school room in the south end of the building, situated upon the Bluff, for this purpose.

This change, which was brought about at an expense of seventeen dollars and fifty cents, by exchanging the smaller seats and desks for larger ones, together with the erection of substantial fences around this house and the one on Pearl street, are the only improvements made in the property of the district during the year.

At the commencement of the winter term, the Intermediate School was organized; Miss E. L. Colby acting as teacher. Among the advantages resulting from this arrangement might be mentioned the reduction of the number of classes in *all* the schools, the introduction of some of the Higher English branches into the Grammar school, without encroaching upon the time needed for a *thorough drill upon first principles*, and especially avoiding the necessity of promoting scholars from the Primary to the Grammar department; and although a few smaller scholars were slightly discommoded by this change, being obliged to walk a little further to school, the result has generally proved highly satisfactory to all concerned.

Your Committee, in the discharge of his duties, found it necessary to recommend some change in the Text Books, and as he has been acting for the district, he feels bound briefly to assign some reasons which have prompted him to do that which might appear to some unnecessary.

The first change made was in the Speller; which he deemed necessary from the fact that the first part of the book in use in the schools did not seem to be adapted to the capacity of the younger scholars, and further, it adopted its orthography Johnson and Worcester, and in pronunciation Walker, while the series of readers, introduced one year since, follow the orthography and pronunciation of Dr. Webster. The change made, was effected without any expense to the district, and has remedied these evils. The change in Geography was demanded for the purpose of securing uniformity of text books in the different departments, thereby lessening the number of classes in this branch of study, and also removing the objection so often made when scholars were asked to go from one school to another, that they had not the same text book. By the introduction of Colton and Fitch's Modern Geography into the Grammar and Intermediate schools, and the Introductory into the Primary schools, there has been a saving of the time of one extra class in each department. This work, though it is not as copious as Mitchell's, comprehends all that is ordinarily taught in our schools, and in a much better and cheaper form.

Your Committee deems it hardly necessary to present a report of the comparative merits of the several departments, but he would offer a few statements in reference to subjects of general interest.

All the schools have made commendable progress. In respect to order

and discipline, which all regard of the first importance, the Committee was generally satisfied. In the examinations the classes acquitted themselves well, showing not only a familiarity with the text books, but an ability to apply the principles.

He is also able to report, that there has been an increasing interest among the parents and patrons of the schools. This has shown itself in the frequent visits of the citizens of the district. There were made to the several schools during the summer term, one hundred and seventy six visits, exclusive of those by the Committees. In the fall the number of visits amounted to one hundred and forty six, and in the winter there were three hundred and fifty four. The different members of the Prudential Committee made eleven visits, and the Superintending Committee thirty four. These have been a source of great encouragement to the scholars and teachers, and your Committee would suggest, that if the parents wish to have their children properly interested in their schools, *they must interest themselves*. He would especially recommend that more particular attention be given to the Primary schools. They are the lowest in rank, as being elementary, but their importance cannot be exaggerated. It is here, as has been well said, that the foundations of future character and excellence are or should be laid. If then, the interests of the Primary schools are promoted, it will directly improve the Intermediate and Grammar schools, for they are of necessity replenished from these.

The greatest obstacles to success existing in the schools, are *irregular attendance and want of punctuality*. There has been some improvement in respect to this matter, but the teachers have had to contend to some extent with these difficulties. *Some persons seem to suppose that if a child has once entered school, progress is inevitable*; that although he may be detained at home two or three days each week, still he must be making proficiency in his studies. But so far is this from the truth, that a child may attend school for a year even, yet so irregularly that it will be fortunate if he knows as much at the end of the year as at the commencement.

These evils can only be remedied by the co-operation of the parents with the teachers. When this is done, a permanent impulse will be given to the progress of our schools.

STATISTICS FOR DISTRICT NO. 17.

Superintending School Committee, Charles C. Church. Prudential Committee, James Goodwin, Hiram Webb, Harvey Tolles. Teachers, summer and fall terms, Primary—Irene W. Felt, Mary E. Dimond, Helen M. Richardson. Grammar,—Elizabeth L. Colby. Weeks of School, each term, ten. Winter School, Primary—Irene W. Felt, Helen M. Richardson. Intermediate—Elizabeth L. Colby. Grammar—George W. Bingham. Length of school, twelve weeks. Whole number of different scholars attending one or the other of the schools two weeks or more during the year, 238. No. of scholars in District, 277. Amount of money apportioned to this District, \$718.22 Amount expended for each scholar attending two weeks or more, \$2.59.

All which is respectfully submitted.

CHARLES C. CHURCH.

Superintending Committee of District No. 17, in Claremont, for the year ending March, 1860.

TABULAR VIEW,

TEACHERS.	District.	PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE.	Length of School in Weeks.	Number of Scholars Attending.	Average Number.	Visitors during the Year.
C. C. Church, E. A. Lewis, D. J. Prentice, J. A. Thorndike, O. B. Way, C. S. Sargeant, M. Mathewson, M. E. Higbee, L. P. Boyd, J. T. Robinson, L. A. Grannis, M. L. Dunklee, A. M. Dean, M. J. Wightman, W. H. Chaffin, A. M. Dean, M. W. Allen, Alice Dean, G. A. Miller, Helen Dean, E. Ayers, H. A. Fletcher, S. M. Reed, G. S. Severance, S. A. Clark, G. P. Rossiter, H. M. Sawyer, H. Deming, J. M. Jones, J. Dean, F. D. Nevens, H. M. Chase, Galen Allen, L. L. Hall, M. L. Clement, A. M. Deane, D. G. Sargent, G. W. Bingham, E. L. Colby, M. E. Dimond, J. W. Felt, H. M. Richardson, A. M. Sperry, M. Colby, M. A. Davidson, N. J. Grannis, H. J. Carleton,	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	W. P. AUSTIN. EDMUND DOLE. C. C. COOK, J. W. HAMMOND. F. NORTON. E. WHITMORE. JACOB SMITH. JOHN AGER. F. JONES. B. MORRILL. G. W. LOTHROP. M. PURINTON. T. E. FIFIELD. J. REED. J. EMERSON. C. COTTON. S. PUTNAM. J. GOODWIN, H. TOLLES, H. WEBB. F. A. HENRY. S. C. GRANNIS.	43 30 22 27 23 25 26 23 29 24 25 24 24 25 29 16 32 30 25	186 51 29 49 35 26 36 24 50 14 33 23 16 26 130 23 238 43 23	98 30 19 24 17 14 24 14 24 11 16 14 12 14 61 20 132 26 12	236 79 18 23 20 49 79 26 56 39 42 42 56 26 113 22 642 57 18

The whole number of scholars as returned by the Selectmen, together with the amount of money appropriated to each District, will be found in the "Financial Report," connected herewith.